



## *House Budget and Research Office*

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 412  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334  
404-656-5050

MARTHA R. WIGTON  
DIRECTOR

---

### **AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2018 STATE BUDGET HOUSE BILL 683 AS PASSED HIGHLIGHTS**

The original FY 2018 budget approved during the 2017 Session set spending at \$24.9 billion. House Bill 683, the Amended FY 2018 budget, recognizes \$415.6 million in additional revenue or 1.7% over the current budget. This brings the total appropriation for Amended FY 2018 to \$25.4 billion. New revenue is focused on funding for required growth in education, healthcare and human services; as well as satisfying one-time expenses including the backlog of 'Forestland Protection Act' grants (FLPA) and urgent capital needs for repairs, maintenance and equipment in state agencies. HB 683 also provides targeted funding for key initiatives designed to spur growth and meet needs in rural communities throughout the state as recommended by the House Rural Development Council. Highlights of House Bill 683 are detailed below by policy area.

#### Economic Development

- The Amended FY 2018 budget includes \$29 million to provide one-time grants to local governments negatively impacted by federal spending requirements. These funds are to be used to offset losses in special purpose local option sales tax revenue.
- HB 683 provides \$10 million to the OneGeorgia Authority to fund beach nourishment projects for communities impacted by storm damage, \$4.5 million for economic development projects, and \$250,000 in existing funds for the Defense Community Economic Development Fund per HB 470 (2017 Session) to provide assistance to military communities and to defend the viability of military installations.
- Within the Department of Economic Development, \$82,415 is added for a new position of deputy commissioner for rural development, as recommended by the House Rural Development Council, to promote rural economic development opportunities and to recruit, retain and expand businesses in rural communities.
- Within the Department of Agriculture, the Amended FY 2018 budget includes \$69,985 for facility improvements at the poultry veterinary diagnostic labs and \$91,357 to replace four vehicles at the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Additionally, \$2.4 million is provided for repairs at farmers' markets statewide.
- The State Forestry Commission is provided \$3 million in the budget for one-time equipment purchases to aid in preventing and combating wildfires. In addition, \$480,000 is provided for

district office repairs and improvements as well as for the construction of additional hangar space in Macon.

### Education

- HB 683 includes \$101.4 million for the Department of Education to provide for midterm enrollment growth of 6,552 additional FTEs. This figure also includes additional funds for charter system grants and State Commission Charter School supplements.
- The Amended FY 2018 budget includes \$15.75 million in state general funds to purchase 204 new school buses for local school systems statewide.
- The budget includes \$400,000 in start-up funds needed within the Governor's Office of Student Achievement to establish a statewide leadership academy for principals per HB 338 (2017 Session). HB 683 also includes \$408,115 to provide one non-STEM AP exam for low-income students. The original FY 2018 budget included funding for one STEM AP exam for all students.

### General Government

- The Amended FY 2018 budget includes an additional \$60.7 million to fund 'Forestland Protection Act' grants in the Department of Revenue, bringing the total amount of funding for the program to \$74.8 million. These funds will be used to reimburse county governments and school systems and will satisfy all outstanding applications received by the department.
- The budget also provides the Department of Revenue with \$1.3 million for equipment associated with the implementation of the new tag and titling system, DRIVES. The expected rollout date for the new system is May 2019.
- HB 683 includes \$10 million to replenish the Governor's Emergency Fund and meet projected expenditures.
- The Amended FY 2018 budget recognizes \$5 million in additional revenue from hunting and fishing license fees pursuant to HB 208 (2017 Session) in the Department of Natural Resources and reflects \$450,000 of those additional funds in the Coastal Resources program for public access and offshore fishery maintenance; \$1.7 million in the Law Enforcement program for additional law enforcement rangers for high-demand areas of the state; \$2.7 million in the Wildlife Resources program for additional public access and land management activities; and \$150,000 in Departmental Administration for additional reporting and processing. HB 683 also increases the Wildlife Endowment Fund by \$1.2 million based on actual lifetime sportsman's license revenues and provides the department with \$500,000 to replace 16 vehicles in four programs.
- The budget includes \$7.9 million in total funds for worker's compensation premiums and \$8.5 million for liability insurance premiums in the Department of Administrative Services to reflect claims expenses. It also reflects savings of \$3.1 million in merit system and unemployment insurance billings based on actual need.

## Health

- The Amended FY 2018 budget includes funding for several IT and Medicaid infrastructure projects, including \$1 million for the electronic visit verification system for home and community-based services, \$1.7 million for the Enterprise Data Solution system, and utilizing existing funds for Medicaid Information Technology Architecture and the Medicaid Management Information System projects.
- The General Assembly agreed with the governor on funding \$23 million for the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments for deemed and non-deemed hospitals.
- The Amended FY 2018 budget incorporates several recommendations from the House Rural Development Council including \$100,000 in the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce for a statewide medical fair for recruitment and the development of a one-stop shop for available residencies. It also provides \$100,000 for the State Office of Rural Health to conduct a request for proposal process to identify a postsecondary institution within the state as an appropriate location for the Rural Center for Health Care Innovation and Sustainability (HB 769, 2018 Session).
- To further assist service delivery in rural Georgia, \$1 million is provided for the State Office of Rural Health for a grant program created in SB 14 (2017 Session) to ensure health systems and primary care providers purchase interoperable data analytic or electronic/digital population health tools in order to improve health outcomes.
- HB 683 also provides \$1.2 million for grants to offset the cost due to the higher number of flu cases and services provided within hospitals.
- The General Assembly agrees with the governor's recommendation for the Department of Community Health to use \$350,000 in existing funds to support the Rural Hospital External Peer Review Network grant program, as well as the Rural Swing-Bed Management grant program.
- The Amended FY 2018 budget continues the focus on autism services by including a program coordinator position in the Department of Community Health, as well as telehealth infrastructure and one program support coordinator in the Department of Public Health, in order to provide behavioral health services to children under 21 who are diagnosed as autistic.
- HB 683 provides funding in the Department of Public Health for legislation passed in the 2017 Session including \$193,500 for the Office of Cardiac Care (SB 102) and \$582,892 for the prescription drug monitoring program (HB 249).
- The Amended FY 2018 budget also recognizes an additional \$5.2 million in Super Speeder collections and Reinstatement Fees for the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission, as well as an additional \$176,845 in fireworks excise tax collections. This brings the total appropriation to \$21.7 million for the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission.

## Higher Education

- The Amended FY 2018 budget incorporates several recommendations from the House Rural Development Council including \$75,000 for planning for the Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovations. The budget document also instructs the Board of Regents to perform a market

study of professional and masters level degrees currently offered at university programs in South Georgia to include recommendations for adjustments to offerings based on matriculation, demand, and industry interest and report to the House Rural Development Council, Rural Georgia Senate Study Committee, and the House and Senate Higher Education Committees by October 1, 2018.

- HB 683 includes an additional \$10 million within the Board of Regents for the Graduate Medical Education program at Augusta University to meet the increasing cost of medical education. The budget also includes \$64,596 in the Cooperate Extension Service Program to replace 3 vehicles for district extension soil and water educators.
- For the Georgia Student Finance Commission, the budget includes an additional \$9.5 million to meet the projected need for 4,534 additional students enrolled in the Dual Enrollment program. This brings the total appropriation for Amended FY 2018 budget to \$87.9 million. The budget also includes an additional \$8.1 million in lottery funds to meet the projected HOPE Scholarship need for public and private school students.
- HB 683 includes \$2 million for the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) to purchase four mobile welding laboratories for HOPE Career Grant welding training on-site throughout the state. These labs will be used to certify students who do not have a campus nearby with similar facilities and who otherwise would not have access to such training. The budget also provides TCSG with \$2 million to expand its marketing efforts and promote opportunities to advance the state's skilled workforce. Finally, the budget includes \$10.3 million for a statewide equipment refresh for the technical colleges and \$75,000 for the transfer of the Cedartown Career Center from the Department of Labor to promote adult education and workforce development.

#### Human Services

- HB 683 includes funding for several initiatives within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for children under 21 who are diagnosed as autistic, including: \$1.25 million for crisis services, \$1.1 million to develop capacity for behavioral health services and \$128,292 in existing funds for telehealth services.
- The Amended FY 2018 budget includes \$2.7 million for the development of additional behavioral health crisis stabilization beds as recommended by the Rural Development Council; \$220,000 in additional funds for the Albany Advocacy Resource Center; and \$410,000 to design the kitchen renovation at East Central Regional Hospital in Augusta.
- Within the Department of Human Services, the budget includes an additional \$15.1 million for growth in out-of-home care utilization. The number of children in foster care in Georgia has doubled since 2009 and now totals more than 14,000.
- HB 683 includes \$550,000 for the design, construction and equipment for the new Division of Family and Children Services Building in Ben Hill County. It also includes \$578,990 for the Department of Veterans Service to purchase patient care equipment at the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home in Milledgeville.

## Public Safety

- The Amended FY 2018 budget includes an additional \$500,000 for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to purchase supplies needed to process DNA sexual assault kits pursuant to SB 304 (2016 Session). This is in addition to the \$855,678 for four additional scientists and two technicians provided in the FY 2018 base budget.
- The budget also includes \$1.1 million to purchase furniture and equipment for the Hull McKnight Cyber Innovation and Training Center which will open in July 2018. The center will enhance cybersecurity in both public and private sectors by housing an incubator for start-up cybersecurity companies and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's new cybercrime unit.
- HB 683 also includes \$5 million for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to implement the statewide criminal justice e-filing initiative.
- The Amended FY 2018 budget provides \$911,556 in new funds and \$402,726 in existing funds within the Department of Juvenile Justice for youth who pose a public safety risk during determination of competency as provided in SB 175 (2017 Session).
- The budget includes \$4 million to replace 93 high-mileage law enforcement pursuit vehicles within the Department of Public Safety and \$1 million for equipment and other one-time costs associated with a new 75-person trooper school.
- HB 683 recognizes \$128,615 in additional revenue from fireworks excise tax collections for the Georgia Firefighter Standards Training Council and \$181,370 in additional funds for driver education and training to reflect the intent of Joshua's Law per HB 806 (2016 Session).

## Transportation and Infrastructure

- HB 683 includes an infusion of \$25.9 million in state general funds for the Department of Transportation to extend runways in 13 counties to safely handle larger aircraft and spur economic development and business investment in rural areas. Runway extension funding is included for the following counties: Burke, Colquitt, Cook, Coweta, Evans, Macon, Morgan, Newton, Polk, Screven, Seminole, Washington, and Wilkes.
- While motor fuel funding remains level at \$1.8 billion in the Amended FY 2018 budget, the Traffic Management and Control Program will receive an infusion of \$5 million for managed lane operations and HERO expansion for the Northwest Corridor. The Data Collection, Compliance and Reporting Program and the Planning Program will receive a combined \$1.5 million to match federal funds for planning and data collection requirements. Funds were available for redirection based on savings associated with GARVEE refinancing and projected expenditures in administration.